

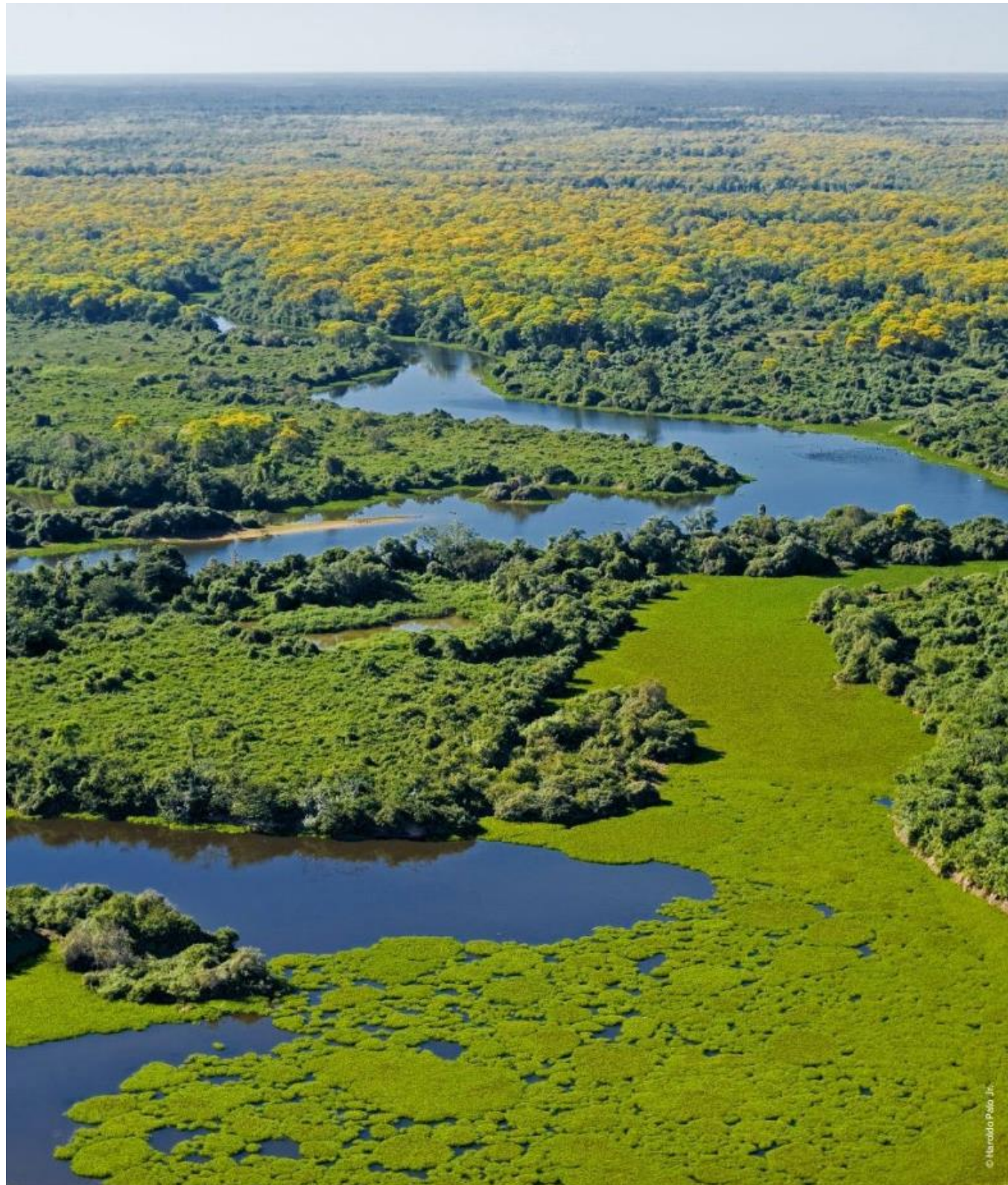


CEPA in the context of the Convention on Wetlands

3 April 2024

Jay Aldous
Deputy Secretary General

Mandate and Core Function



The purpose of CEPA is to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention through building awareness, knowledge and action for the protection and wise use of wetlands.

Relevant Guidance



Resolution XIV.8: The Contracting Parties at COP14 in 2022 agreed to a new CEPA approach, and encouraged its implementation by Parties, International Organization Partners and other partners.

The new approach has the following characteristics:

- Activities linked to the Strategic Plan
- CEPA integrated into wetlands planning and activities (local and national)
- Build networks and partnerships
- Strengthen the capacity of CEPA practitioners
- More efficient governance of CEPA

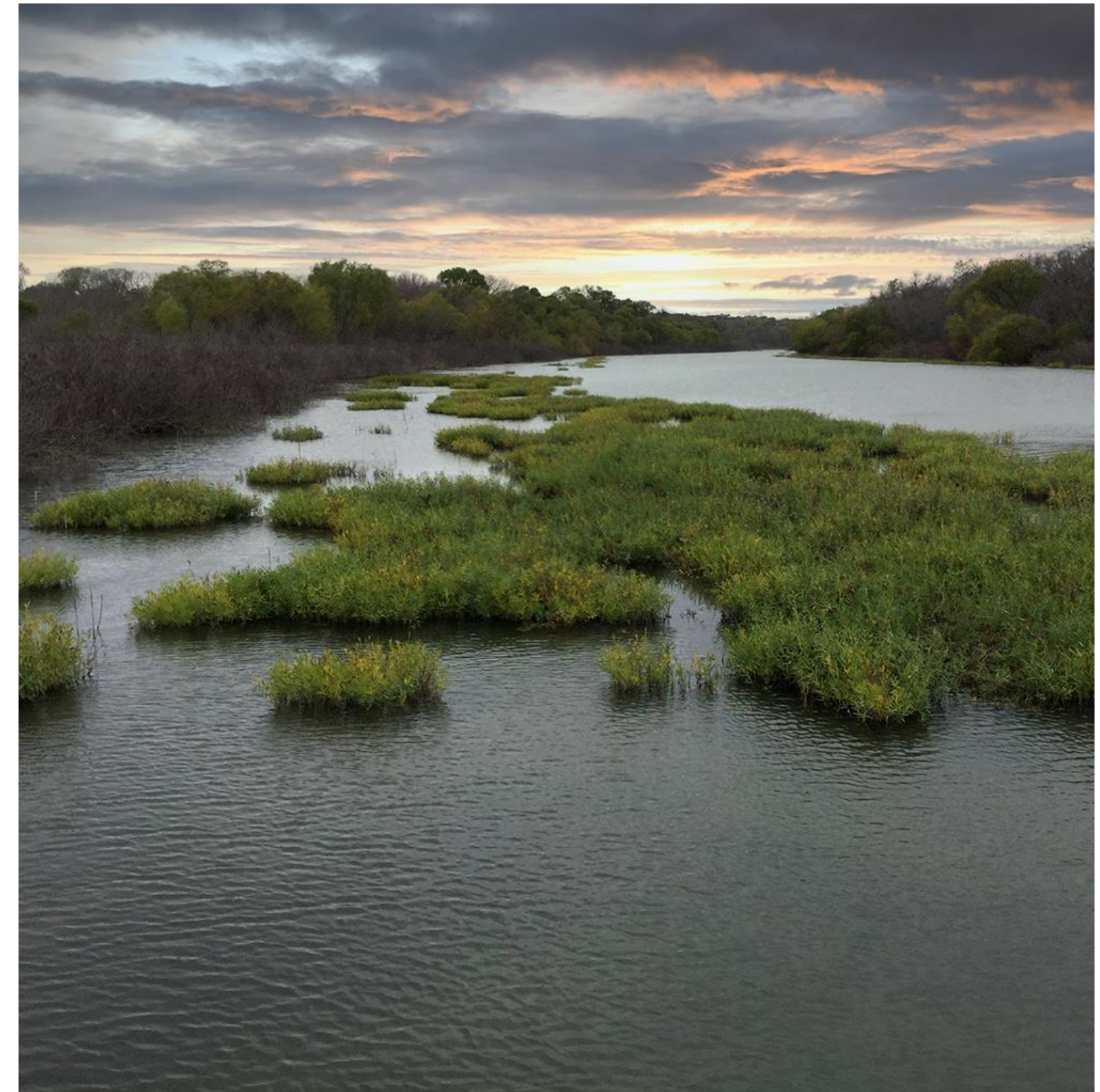
CEPA Oversight Panel

- The Oversight Panel monitors and reports on the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme and sets priorities for communication, education, participation, awareness and capacity building.
- Membership includes government and NGO CEPA Focal Points, STRP, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and International Organization Partner (IOP) representatives.

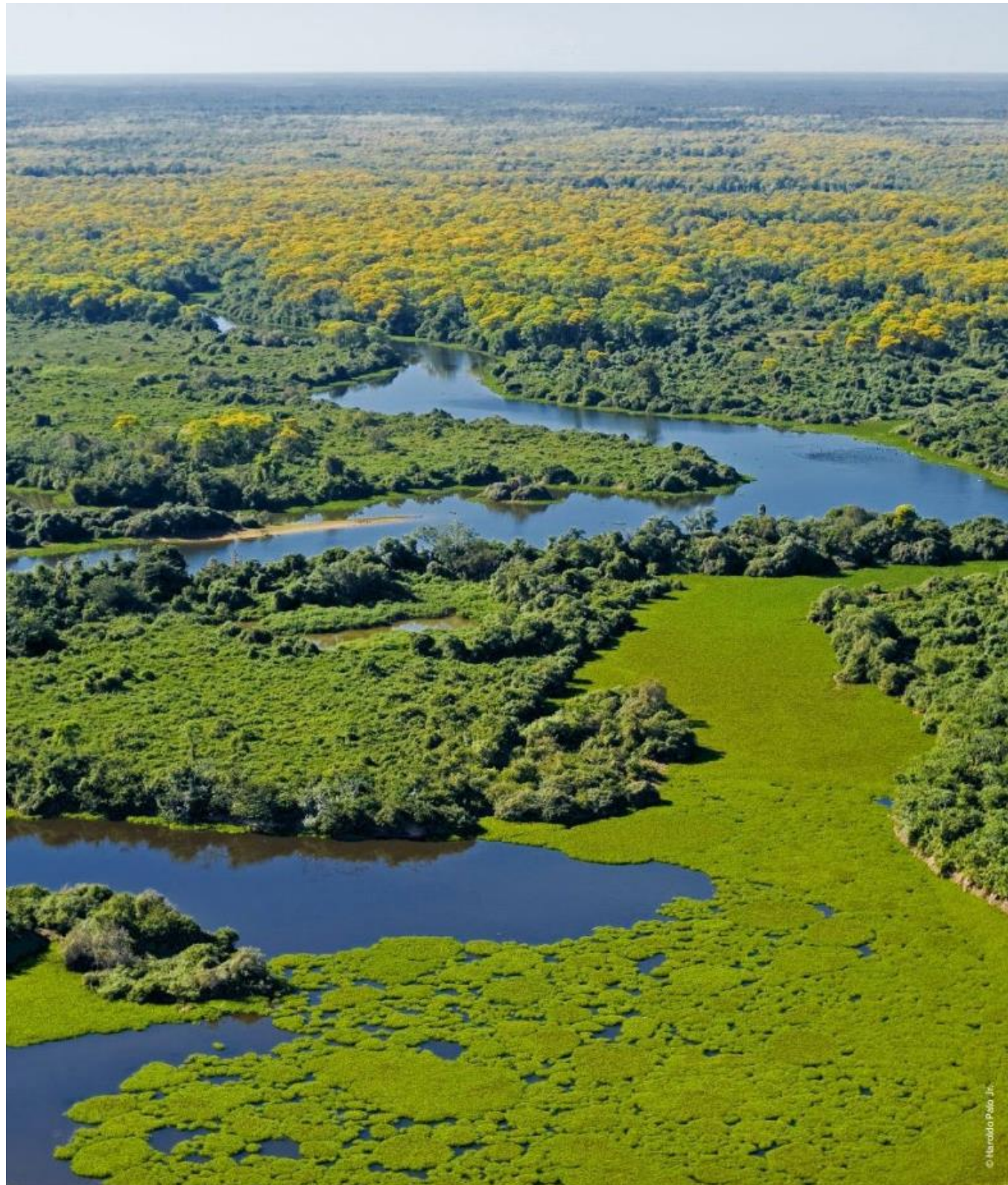


CEPA Focal Points

- **CEPA National Focal Points** are recognised experts in **C**ommunication, **C**apacity development, **E**ducation, **P**articipation and **A**wareness, one from within the government and one representing an NGO.
- Together they lead the development and implementation of national and local wetland CEPA programmes and action plans.
- The selection of Government and NGO CEPA National Focal Points by every Contracting Party is the starting point for an effective review of CEPA needs within each country, leading ultimately to a CEPA Action Plan.



Roles and Responsibilities of the CEPA Focal Points



The roles and responsibilities of the CEPA Focal Points can include some or all of the following:

- Providing a supportive environment in which wetland CEPA planners and practitioners can develop their work;
- Providing leadership for the development and implementation of a wetland CEPA programme at an appropriate level (national, subnational, local);
- Being the main points of contact on CEPA matters;
- Assisting in the practical CEPA implementation at the national level and in national reporting on CEPA activities to the Convention on Wetlands Conferences of the Parties;
- Ensuring a high, positive public profile for the Convention and its conservation and wise use goals;
- Being active spokespersons for wetland CEPA and wetland matters;
- Establishing and maintaining contacts, networks, structures and mechanisms necessary to ensure the efficient communication of information between relevant actors at all levels and in all sectors.

Resources

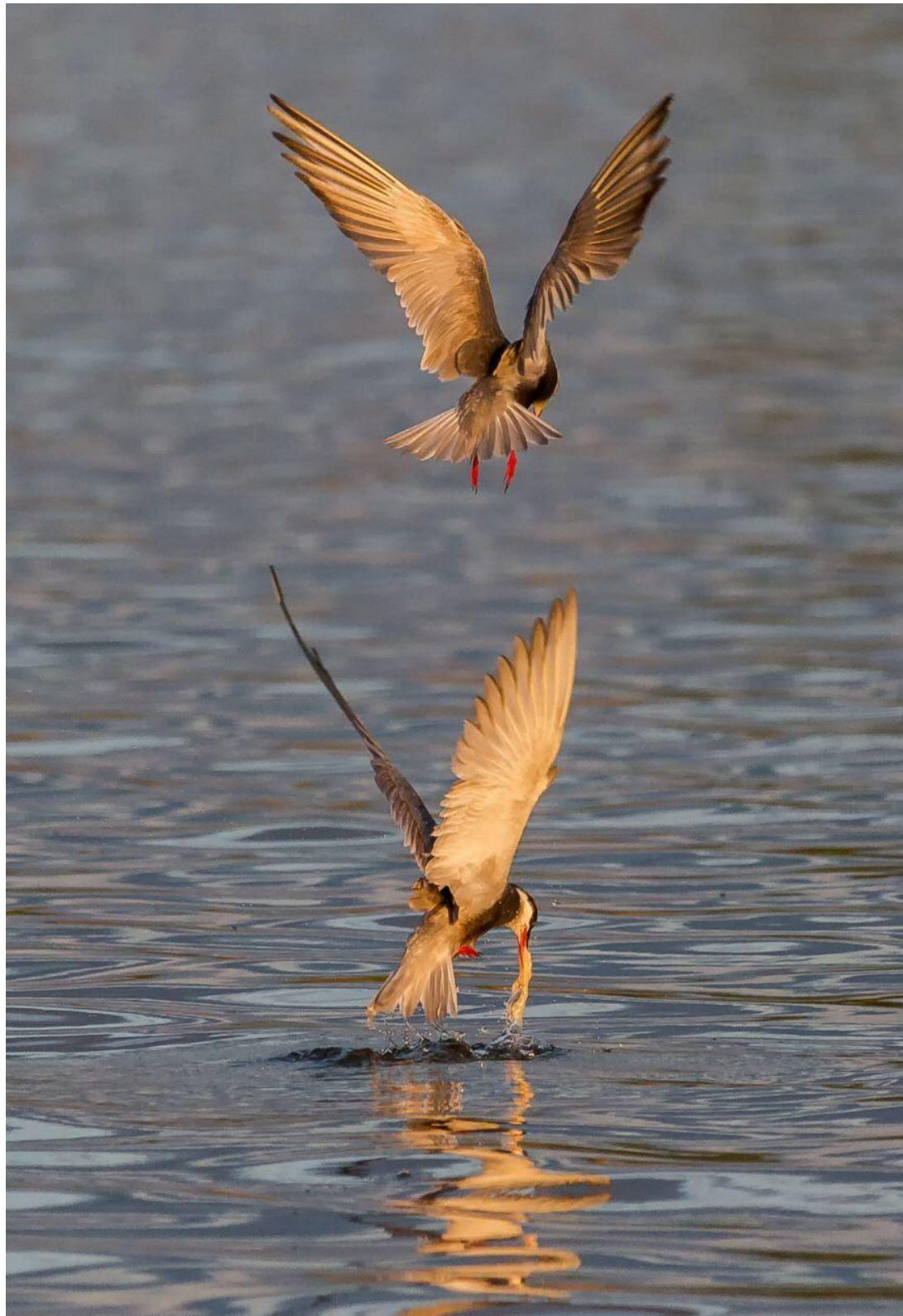
- The World Wetlands Day campaign unites a global community of people passionate about wetlands. Dedicated resources can be found on the World Wetlands Day website. www.worldwetlandsday.org
- CEPA Resources and Activities page on the Convention website www.ramsar.org
- Experienced CEPA practitioners are willing to share their knowledge.





Thank you!

Functions of the CEPA Oversight Panel



The terms of reference of the Panel were updated in 2022 through Resolution XIV.8. Its functions are to:

- Deliver results originating from specific CEPA requests included in Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the Strategic Plan.
- Examine CEPA needs and gaps in implementation in order to identify CEPA activities to be integrated in the Strategic Plan.
- Monitor and report on current CEPA issues within the Convention and the progress of implementation of current CEPA Priorities, especially with reference to the CEPA activities included in the Strategic Plan as well as COP Resolutions.
- Advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on CEPA work priorities at the national and international levels, including the CEPA priorities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).
- Liaise with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to improve CEPA synergies among Conventions.